

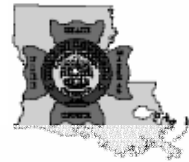


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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS  
Public Safety Services

Office of State Fire Marshal  
Code Enforcement and Building Safety

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## MEMORANDUM 2005 - 04

To: Licensed Architects  
Licensed Engineers  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Louisiana Hospital Association  
Felicia Cooper, Deputy State Fire Marshal Administrator  
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections

From: Henry Fry  
State Fire Marshal (Acting)

RE: **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES for MOBILE / MODULAR HEALTH UNITS**  
(DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA)

Date: September 19, 2005

Mobile/modular treatment or diagnostic units, such as Cath Lab, MRI, CAT Scan, Lithotripsy Unit, etc., are typically required by LA. R.S. 40:1574.A and 1574.B, to undergo plan review prior to construction, renovation and/or occupancy. Approval of each unit for occupancy is based on the intended usage according to the definitions of occupancy classifications, as set forth in the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

Facilities which are placed into operation in the State of Louisiana without a prior review of the plans by this office are in violation of state law. Those facilities which entered this state without the statutorily required plan review and inspection by this office, pursuant to La. R.S. 40:1574, et al, shall cease and desist operations and contact this office for resolution.

Most times, unit operation is described as "TEMPORARY USE" and full code compliance is RARELY provided. However, public safety may be at risk, due to the existence of possible code deficiencies when these facilities are operating and occupied without approval. For this reason and due to current special circumstances resulting from Hurricane Katrina, mobile/modular treatment and/or diagnostic units will be permitted to operate on an "**EMERGENCY BASIS**" only under the following conditions:

A "**LETTER OF INTENT**" shall be submitted to this office and shall include ALL of the following information;

- **INTENDED USE** of the unit (i.e., MRI, CAT Scan, Cath Lab, etc.).
- **VIN** (vehicle identification number).
- **SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN** showing the exact location of the unit in respect to other nearby structures, and including a complete and correct address for the main facility. (**CAUTION: Under this EMERGENCY PROCEDURE, Units shall be physically separated from Healthcare Occupancies by a clear, unobstructed distance of at least twenty feet (20'), unless the Unit complies, in full, with the provisions of the Chapter for New Healthcare Occupancies in the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.** (Provide a copy of any previous plan review performed for the Unit, if applicable.)
- **TIME SCHEDULE** identifying the estimated duration of stay that the unit will be located at the specific location shown on the associated "Schematic Site Plan". **NOTE:** "TEMPORARY USE" shall be defined as a time period of up to 180 days. Any installation exceeding a stay of 180 days **MUST FULLY COMPLY** with minimum code requirements, laws, rules and regulations adopted by the State, unless a special time extension is granted by this office.

THE APPROVED "**LETTER OF INTENT**" DOCUMENTATION AND THE "**INSPECTION REPORT**" SHALL BE KEPT IN THE MOBILE/MODULAR UNIT AT ALL TIMES during its location and usage under this EMERGENCY PROCEDURE. A satisfactory inspection is usually performed by this office prior to occupancy; HOWEVER, due to unusual conditions in this time of state emergency, units may be occupied at the Owner's risk if an inspection by this office cannot be performed in an expeditious manner, provided a "**LETTER OF INTENT**" has been received and placed on file with this office.

### **BUILDING CONNECTORS**

All construction between a Healthcare Occupancy and the Unit, such as a "covered walkway", shall be of **noncombustible or fire-resistive construction**. Aluminum is not permitted unless the Unit complies in full with the provisions of the Chapter for New Healthcare Occupancies in the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code).

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

Provide handicapped accessibility in accordance with ADA-AG (Accessibility Guidelines - September, 1994), pursuant to La. R.S. 40:1731-(Effective 8/15/95). Compliance with state regulations and requirements does not guarantee compliance with federal law.

A safe "patient lift" shall be provided in good working order and shall remain at the floor level of the Unit at all times that a patient occupies the Unit. (CAUTION: Please be advised that the Justice Department may deem that this feature, alone, does not satisfy the requirements for accessibility.)

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### **CAUTION:**

This document shall in no way relieve the facility from compliance with minimum standards, and is not intended to circumvent state law or any regulations enforced by other authorities having jurisdiction.

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